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SERVICE DATE - DECEMBER 20, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 70)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT—WALLACE BRANCH, ID

Decided: December 15, 2000

By decision and certificate of interim trail use or abandonment served on June 26, 2000, the Board gave final approval to the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to salvage its 71.5-mile Wallace Branch rail line in Benewah, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties, ID, subject to four environmental conditions and other terms and conditions. The Board also authorized UP to negotiate an interim trail use agreement with the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe pursuant to section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) (Trails Act). The period for negotiating an interim trail use agreement is scheduled to expire on December 23, 2000.

By letter filed December 6, 2000, UP indicates that negotiations will not be completed by December 23, 2000. On its behalf and on behalf of the other parties involved in the trail negotiations, UP requests an extension of the negotiating period for an additional 180 days.

Where, as here, the carrier is willing to continue trail use negotiations, the negotiating period may be extended.¹ UP has shown that the additional time is necessary to complete negotiations. Under the circumstances, an extension of the negotiating period is warranted and will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the Trails Act. Accordingly, the negotiating period will be extended to June 21, 2001.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The negotiating period is extended to June 21, 2001.

¹ See Rail Abandonments—Supplemental Trails Act Procedures, 4 I.C.C.2d 152 (1987).

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary